

In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of making a cartilaginous prosthesis, comprising seeding a polymeric matrix construct with ~~chondrocytes~~ chondrocytes and contacting the seeded construct with hydrophobically modified means for binding patched and thereby activating hedgehog signaling, wherein the seeded construct is contacted with at least 500 ng/ml of said hydrophobically modified means ~~a hedgehog therapeutic~~.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the chondrocytes are articular chondrocytes.
3. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein the hydrophobically modified means for binding patched and thereby activating hedgehog signaling comprises hedgehog therapeutic ~~is a naturally-occurring hedgehog polypeptide~~.
4. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the ~~hedgehog therapeutic is a~~ hydrophobically modified ~~hedgehog polypeptide~~ means comprises a dipalmitoyl hedgehog polypeptide.
5. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 or 4 ~~3~~, wherein the hydrophobically modified means ~~hedgehog polypeptide~~ is di-palmitoyl sonic hedgehog or dipalmitoyl indian hedgehog.
6. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 or 4, wherein the seeded construct is contacted with dipalmitoyl hedgehog at a concentration of at least 500 ng/ml.
7. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 6 ~~4~~, wherein the seeded construct is contacted with dipalmitoyl sonic hedgehog at a concentration of between 500 and 1000 ng/ml.
8. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 or 4, wherein the polymeric matrix is selected from any ~~the group consisting~~ of polyglycolid acid, collagen, dextran sulfate,

polyanhydride, polyorthoester, hyaluronic acid-based polymers, and a glycosaminoglycan.

9. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 6, wherein the polymeric matrix is polycolid acid.

10. **(Withdrawn)** A tissue culture system for the production of cartilage comprising a polymeric matrix, chondrocytes adherent to the matrix and a culture medium comprising an amount of a hedgehog therapeutic sufficient to cause an increase in the proteoglycan content of the cartilage, compared to the content in absence of the hedgehog therapeutic.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The tissue culture system of claim 10, in which the hedgehog therapeutic is a naturally occurring hedgehog polypeptide.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The tissue culture system of claim 11, in which the hedgehog polypeptide is sonic hedgehog or indian hedgehog.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The tissue culture system of claim 10, in which the hedgehog therapeutic is a hydrophobically modified hedgehog polypeptide.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The tissue culture system of claim 13, in which the hedgehog therapeutic is dipalmitoyl sonic hedgehog or dipalmitoyl indian hedgehog.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The tissue culture system of claim 14, in which the amount of the hedgehog therapeutic is between 500 and 1000 ng/ml.